UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MUSIC

13.14 SEASON

In High Voice

Young Voices Toronto and U of T Women's Chorus
Zimfira Poloz and Melissa Morgan, conductors
Matthew Havas Stainton, assistant conductor

Sunday, April 6, 2014
2:30 p.m., MacMillan Theatre
Edward Johnson Building

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IN HI GH VOICE
Young Voices Toronto and the University of Toronto Women's Chorus

YOUNG VOICES TORONTO ALLEGRIA
University of Toronto's Children's Choir-in-Residence
Zimfira Poloz, conductor
Sheldon Rose, pianist

Song of Life — ***Sandy Scofield**

Kyrie — **Piotr Janczak**

Lamp of Poor Souls — ***Sheldon Rose**

Dobbin's F lowery Vale — **Traditional Irish**
arr. *Sarah Quartel

Le Train D 'Hiver — ***Marie-Claire Saindon**

Dos a Dos *(Square Dance)* — **Karl Jenkins**

COMBINED CHOIRS
Young Voices Toronto Allegria
The University of Toronto Women's Chorus

Past Life Melodies — **Sarah Hopkins**

Amina Holloway, Evan Lambert, Rosalind Zhang, Dobrochna Zubek, cellos

THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO WOMEN'S CHORUS
Melissa Morgan, conductor
Matthew Havas Stainton, assistant conductor
Jialiang Zhu, pianist

Traverse Bay — ***Jeff Smallman**

The Water o f Tyne — **Traditional English**
arr. Micahel Neaum

Les Papillons — ***Diana Woolrich**

Arirang — **Traditional Korean**
arr. Shin-Hwa Park

Dravidian Dithyramb — **Victor Paranjoti**

Matthew Havas Stainton, conductor

Nada Te Turbe — **Joan Szymko**

Dobrochna Zubek, cello

Koudjay — **Sydney Guillaume**

*denotes Canadian

PROGRAM NOTES

"Sandy Scofield is a multi-award winning composer, musician and singer. It's a long way from playing Cajun party music to *a cappella* vocal arrangements of First Nations songs to composing music for theatre and for our own Winter Olympics Opening Ceremonies in Vancouver. Sandy Scofield has invested a tremendous spirit, navigating and negotiating through a life dedicated to music, sometimes on her own, and sometimes with collaborators. She has won five Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards, a Canadian Folk Music Award, an Indian Summer Music Award (U.S.), a Western Canadian Music Award and received three consecutive Juno nominations. ***Song of Life***, about the text: …our music is derived from syllabics or vocables and may or may not include actual language – in themselves, the vocables have no literal translation, however it is the *intent* of the song which determines their meaning- in this case it concerns *celebrating life as per the title*." (notes by Sandy Scofield- Metis, Saulteaux/Cree First Nations)

Piotr Janczak, the composer of ***Kyrie***, was born in 1972. Piotr Janczak is the author of many compositions for male and mixed choirs. At the Polish competition for children and youth choirs (*a cappella*) he received an award for composing the best hymn. He is founder and conductor of the male choir in Wyrzysk. With this choir he attained important achievements in Poland and abroad.

Before the Reformation, many English churches kept a little lamp called the "Lamp of Poor Souls" continuously burning. People were thereby to pray for the souls of those dead whose kinsfolk were poor to pay for prayers and masses. ***Lamp of Poor Souls***, was composed by Sheldon Rose, our accompanist.

Dobbin's Flowery Vale is a hauntingly beautiful piece from Rajaton's repertoire arranged by Canadian composer, Sarah Quartel. *Dobbin's Flowery Vale* belongs to an extensive family of folk songs where the narrator, while going for a walk, observes two lovers speaking to one another. The flowers of the vale in the song are in an area of parkland beside Ballinahone River in Armagh and given to the city by Leonard Dobbin, High Sheriff and MP for the city in and around the 1830's. Sarah's compositions have been featured by groups such as the National Youth Choir of Canada, the Nathaniel Dett Chorale and the *a cappella* group Rajaton. Rajaton is a Finnish *a cappella* ensemble, founded in Helsinki in 1997. The Finnish word *rajaton* means "boundless", which indicates the breadth of their repertoire, from sacred classical to near Europop.

The spirited piece, ***Le Train D'Hiver*** was written in October 2002 for a composition competition sponsored by L'Ensemble vocal senior of L'Escole De la Salle. The text depicts a steam train slicing furiously through a calm winter landscape. The piece paints a portrait of two opposite images: hot and cold, furious and peaceful, heavy and light. Marie-Claire Saindon was born in Ottawa, Ontario, into an artistic family. She studied music composition at McGill University.

Karl Jenkins is one of the most performed living composers in the world. He was educated at Gowerton Grammar School, Cardiff University and the Royal Academy of Music, London. His style and integrity has transcended musical boundaries encompassing jazz-rock with Soft Machine, the global 'crossover' phenomenon *Adiemus*, soundtracks for Levis and British Airways, while stopping off along the way to score a Kiefer Sutherland movie, Be a castaway on BBC. ***Dos a Dos*** (Square Dance) is part of the *Adiemus – Dances of Time*. *Adiemus* an extended choral work based on European classical tradition, but the vocal sound is more akin to ethnic or world music.
(Notes by Zimfira Poloz)

Past Life Melodies was composed by Sarah Hopkins during 1991 on a commission for St. Peters Chorale, Brisbane and since then has become a standard repertoire piece for many choirs around the world and been released on two CD's, *Reclaiming the Spiriting* (New World Productions) and *Until I Saw* (St. Peters Chorale).

The piece embraces several vocal qualities not traditionally used in Western choral music, including open-throated chant singing, earthy vocal drones and harmonic overtone singing. This version with 4 celli interweaves the haunting rhythms of the didjeridu, emulated by a cello plus harmonic bowing and musical birdcalls also from the celli. *Past Life Melodies* has become part of the Music curriculum for High schools throughout Australia and in 1993 was performed in the Sydney Opera House by the combined New South Wales secondary schools choir of 800 voices."(notes by Sarah Hopkins)

Canadian composer and author, Jeff Smallman (b. 1965) is from London, Ontario. He has composed works for choir, band, piano and orchestra. ***Traverse Bay*** is an original composition in a folk-like style that is set to the poetry of First Nations Canadian E. Pauline Johnson. Johnson's text juxtaposes the rough, turbulent, and sometimes dangerous character seen on the surface of the sea with the beautiful, calm and ancient stillness found in the depths of the sea. On the surface, the waters crash and collide with the elements of nature but deep within the depths of the sea is unhindered freedom and stillness. The waters of the sea can be interpreted as a metaphor for one's life journey. Using mixed meters, modal harmonies, imitative and homophonic textures, Smallman captures the dualities depicted in the text.

First printed in Bell's Northern Bards, in 1812, the traditional English folk song, ***The Water of Tyne***, describes the feelings of longing and the sadness of separation endured by a lover. The arrangement by Michael Neaum captures the calm yet expansive quality of the water. Neaum uses the rippling solo piano line to compliment the unison choral opening. He later thickens the texture by gradually employing three-part homophonic harmonies. In the end, the melody returns just as it was in the opening. The listener becomes reacquainted with the simple unison and melodic line of the treble choir and rippling fluidity of the piano.

Les Papillons encapsulates the beauty, freedom, and flight of the butterfly. Set to the famous text by 19th century poet Théophile Gautier, this unaccompanied choral arrangement contrasts homophonic harmony with unison textures. Saskatchewan voice teacher, choral conductor and composer Diana Woolrich first wrote this piece for her Treble-voiced choir Juventus. Juventus was competing in the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) National Choral competition and was required to perform a piece that was *a cappella* and in French. When speaking about composing *Les Papillons*, Woolrich states, "I am familiar with French poetry principally through song texts, and Gautier's *Les Papillons* was one I was fond of from Ernest Chausson's solo song setting. My plan was for something with some texture, but also long cantabile lines and with melodic interest in all four parts. The opening is intended to suggest the flight of butterflies, and the melodic gestures are really just an opening out of that initial major 2nd alternation. I hoped to be able to express the delicate sensuousness of the poetry, and to this end the musical language is essentially tonal but with a little added dissonance."

The Korean folk tune ***Arirang*** is commonly referred to as Korea's unofficial national anthem. For generations, 'arirang' melodies have been past down orally from generation to generation. As a result, many provinces have their own 'arirang' melody. In this arrangement, the Korean choral conductor and arranger, Shin-Hwa Park has set three well-known *Arirang* melodies and they are *Jung-Sun Arirang*, *Mil-Yang Arirang*, and the most common melody *Arirang*. Shin-Hwa Park states, "The prevailing character of this arrangement is of the plaintive type. The pentatonic melodic lines have been largely preserved, although western homorhythmic and imitative techniques are used to create a polyphonic texture."
(Notes by Melissa Morgan)

Dravidian Dithyramb is a colourful and vibrant choral work from South India by Victor Paranjoti (1906-1967) who is known for promoting choral music in India in the twentieth century. In addition to composing he founded and conducted the Bombay-based Paranjoti Choir which is still in existence.

Dating back to the fifth century the Sandkrit word *raga* is defined as colouring the mind and emotions, and metaphorically it can mean any feeling or passion. A *raga* is one of the melodic modes used in Indian classical music using a series of five or more notes to construct a melody. Traditionally, *ragas* were transmitted orally from teacher to student. Paranjoti's work represents one of the few attempts to record this marvelously rich and diverse tradition using Western forms of musical notation.

Dithyramb is a Greek term for a wild, passionate hymn and the music is infused with a remarkable rhythmic vitality that constantly drives it forward. *Dravidian Dithyramb* dates from 1962 and uses the neutral syllable 'na' throughout instead of a text with the syntax and semantics of a particular language.
(Notes by Matthew Havas Stainton)

The text, ***Nada Te Turbe*** was found in the prayer book of 16th century Spanish nun, Saint Teresa of Ávila (1515-1582) after her death. Saint Teresa, the originator of the Carmelite Reform, was known for her love of the Catholic Church and her dedication to a life of prayer and contemplation. Joan Szymko's (b. 1957) setting of this famous text, weaves the warm and dark sonorities of the cello into the four-part vocal texture to highlight the spiritual quality of the text. Szymko's use of mixed meter, subtle shifts between unison lines and four-part homophonic harmonies reiterate the sentiments of hollowed wonder and the feeling of calm expressed in the text.

Sydney Guillaume (b. 1982) is recognized as one of today's up and coming young American composers. Originally, from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Guillaume writes choral music that blend elements of his Haitian roots with his American upbringing. ***Koudjay*** features the rhythms and harmonies of a Haitian Carnival festival. Throughout the piece, one can visualize the movements of a dance, hear the echoes of instrumental interludes, and feel emotions of peace and joy. Gabriel T. Guillaume, author of the text and uncle to the composer states the philosophy of *Koudjay*,"'A time for everything and everything in its time . . . A time to laugh and a time to cry . . . A time to sow and a time to reap' says Ecclesiastes. Human existence requires a certain balance and must harmonize life's activities. Work is essential, but leisure is vital for an authentic development of mankind.'"
(Notes by Melissa Morgan)

BIOGRAPHIES

Artistic Director, conductor, educator, adjudicator, and clinician **ZIMFIRA POLOZ** is a highly respected conductor, educator and adjudicator with a distinguished international reputation. She has been decorated with numerous awards in her long career, including the Honoured Representative of Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan Award, the city of Hamilton's V.I.P. Award, and the Leslie Bell Prize Award for Choral Conducting from the Ontario Art Council. She is invited regularly to serve as clinician for festivals, lead workshops for educators, and jury International Choir Competitions around the globe, including the renowned World Choral Games, IFCM, Europa–Cantat and Interkultur. At present, Zimfira is the Artistic Director for both the Hamilton Children's Choir and Young Voices Toronto. Both choirs were selected as featured choirs for the 2012 Podium National Conference in Ottawa. In addition to her global travels as a clinician and conductor, Zimfira still continues to teach and lecture on 'Vocal Pedagogy for Young Choirs' at the University of Toronto.

For nearly 30 years, **YOUNG VOICES TORONTO** (formerly 'High Park Choirs') has been developing children's musical abilities with passionate, professional, and unique choral training - all while promoting inclusiveness, joy, teamwork, and cultural diversity. Led by internationally-renowned Artistic Director Zimfira Poloz, Young Voices Toronto is the Children's Choir in Residence at the University of Toronto, and has been featured several times at Roy Thomson Hall as well as in performance with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. YVT delights audiences beyond the traditional chorus experience, with flexible and diverse repertoire paired with innovative choreography and visual artistry. In 2012 YVT was selected to perform at the National Choral Symposium-Podium in Ottawa. The group's latest invitation is to the summer 2014 World Choral Games in Riga, Latvia, where the group will share the stage with over 450 top international choirs! For more information on the group please visit: www.youngvoicestoronto.com.

Raised in Regina, Saskatchewan, **MELISSA MORGAN** holds a Master of Music Performance in Choral Conducting from the University of Western Ontario, a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Regina. She is also an Associate of the Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto in piano, voice, and flute. In 2013, Melissa was the recipient of the Iwan Edwards Award in connection with conductor Michael Zaugg and the Montreal Choral Masterclass 2013. Melissa has taught choir in Saskatchewan for several years. In 2008, Melissa assumed the Pfeifer Memorial Chair of Music, Music Director position at Luther College high school in Regina. Currently on leave from Luther College high school, she is in her second year of the doctoral program in Choral Conducting at the University of Toronto, under the supervision of Dr. Hilary Apfelstadt. Melissa is the current director of the University of Toronto Women's Chorus.

A native of Toronto, **MATTHEW HAVAS STAINTON** holds a Bachelor of Music in Theory and Composition from the University of Western Ontario. In 2013, Matthew was the recipient of the Elmer Iseler Conducting Fellowship and the Arthur Plettner Graduate Fellowship. Matthew currently serves as Assistant Conductor to the Women's Chorus having completed an assistantship with the Men's Chorus in 2013. He is completing the final year of the Master of Music Performance in choral conducting at the University of Toronto and recently completed his graduating recital. Matthew has studied choral conducting with Dr. Hilary Apfelstadt since June 2011.

This concert is given in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Doctorate of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting for Ms. Morgan, University of Toronto, April 2014.

YOUNG VOICES TORONTO

Kara Blokland
Veda Bock
Ryan Brownrigg
Hana Buzimkic
Maya Chepovetsky
Emily Craig-Hora
Alex Crawley
Genevieve Crispin-Frei
Chelsea Davies-Kneis
Mya Deus
Jane Ernszt
Mercedes Gaztambide
Cameron Goodall
Clara Goodall
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Victoria Harper
Kiana Hansan
Olivia Hui
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Calista Jonah
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Mayaline Roche
Julia Sarracini
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Alicia Wilson

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Ayesha Barboza
Nicole Becic
Mackenzie Clark
Sarah Forestieri
Julia Frodyma
Nicole Glover
Emma Johnson
Jana Luksts
Hilary McLaughlin
Laura Packer
Luksimi Sivaneswaralingam
Natalie Sommers
Nevalea Tkachuk
Marie Stephanie Vaduva

Soprano 2
Madison Angus
Vicky Yu-Han Chiu
Courtney Dakers
Rachel Fawcett
Pauline Feng
Stephanie Gamponia
Marija Gligorevic
Linda Goldberg
Eleanor Hart
Shiyomi Joseph
Cassandra Karvonen
Mimi Hanyu Ke
Nadia Kim
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Soojeong Oh
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Maylin Zulueta Ortega
Jessica-Anne Pantarotto
Jaime Redford
Rachel Sherret
Sofya Voronko
Helen Xu

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Kimberly Au
Stefani Bedin
Audrey Campbell
Eve Chen
Natasha Cheung
Stephanie Chong
Amy dela Cruz
Sherry Yu Du
Airin San Hadi
Angel He
Tatjana Jaluvka
Rita Saeyeon Kim
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